

Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended responsive to the rejection to remove the term "thin". It is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Saito et al. (European Patent No. 239390 A2) (Saito), claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2001/0048643 A1) (Inoue), and claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inoue and further in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,014 B2). The rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 2. In light of the above-outlined amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 3 and 4.

In particular, Applicants assert that neither Saito nor Inoue, disclose a magneto-optical body comprising two dielectric multilayered films and a magnetic film provided between the two dielectric multilayered films, wherein the two dielectric multilayered films comprise two types of dielectric films alternately laminated with each other regular in thickness and wherein the one dielectric film has a refractive index of three or higher, and the other dielectric film has a refractive index of less than two, as recited in claim 1.

Saito instead teaches an opto-magnetic recording layer (12, Fig. 2) on each side of which two intermediate layers (13a, 13b, Fig. 2, lines 5-8) are disposed such as to be in contact with the opto-magnetic recording layer in order to achieve sufficient protection against oxidation and corrosion of the opto-magnetic recording layer. Saito also teaches two other intermediate layers (14a, 14b, Fig. 2, lines 13-16) laminated on the outer surfaces of intermediate layers 13a and 13b, respectively, in order to reduce the amount of heat escaping from the opto-magnetic recording layer 12. Furthermore, Saito teaches that the film thickness of the first intermediate layer is (13a, 13b) is preferably 100 to 1000 Å, while that of the second intermediate layers (14a, 14b) is preferably 100 to 3000 Å (lines 23-24). In

other words, although the first and second intermediate layers are laminated with each other, they are not regular in thickness, i.e., they are not of the same thickness.

Moreover, although the intermediate layers are different in nature (lines 16-20 and lines 8-12) and thus, have different refractive indices, Saito does not disclose or suggest one film with a refractive index of three or more, and the other film with a refractive index of less than two. Accordingly, Saito fails to disclose all of the features recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Inoue teaches a multilayered resonance device with regularly stacked layers, each formed by alternately stacking a magnetic substance and a dielectric substance with thickness regularity (Abstract, lines 1-4, paragraph 0011). Inoue also teaches two types of dielectric layers with different refractive indices (paragraph 0102). However, Inoue does not disclose or suggest two dielectric films where one dielectric film has a refractive index of three or higher and the other dielectric film has a refractive index of less than two. Accordingly, Inoue also fails to disclose all of the features recited in Applicant's claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants assert that the combination of Inoue and Li does not disclose or suggest a magneto-optical body as recited in claim 1 wherein the one dielectric film is Si, and the other dielectric film is SiO₂, as recited in claim 3.

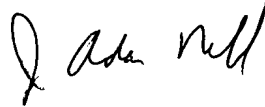
Li instead teaches (Table 1) multilayered films composed of Si and SiO₂, but does not disclose or suggest the motivation to combine them in the same arrangement or to combine them with Inoue because neither Inoue nor Li disclose or suggest providing the largest difference possible in refractive index as disclosed in page 7, lines 15-16 of Applicants' specification. As such, Applicants assert that the features of claim 3 are neither disclosed nor suggested. Accordingly, Li fails to cure the deficiencies of Inoue in disclosing all of the features of claim 3.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Saito nor Inoue disclose or suggest the subject matter of independent claim 1. Applicants further submit that the combination of Inoue and Li does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of dependent claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Appendix
Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: May 23, 2003

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